

SOCIAL CHIT-CHAT.

The Close of the Penitential Season
Brings About a Revival of
Gayeties in Helena.

Preparing the Costumes for "Ermine"
—The Principals and Chorus
Hard at Work.

Plans for the Assembly's German-Golgotha
On Around Town—Answers to
Correspondents.

The season of Easter is especially hard on dressmakers and hems, particularly the latter. The consumption of eggs about this period is awful, for beyond and above the average consumption of the doubtful eggs, disguised in the form of omelettes, etc., there is the indubitably bad egg, selected for amateur theatricals, and last but not least the hard boiled traveling egg, which about Easter time is adorned with ribbons and becomes for the nonce a hard-boiled, hand-painted, indigestible feature of a young lady's boudoir.

Of course this unnatural demand makes the hens scratch and the grocery clerk rustle, but at twenty cents a dozen it is a cheap amusement, and a young man can get up quite a neat offering for say thirty-five cents, providing he can paint a little and spell correctly, while he can spoil a dozen eggs in the attempt, without really being extravagant. One very neat design is a goose egg highly colored, with these simple words printed across it in indelible blue: "An eggs shellent Easter offering." Original ideas like the above are of course hard to obtain, but I know a woman who has turned out, and therefore deserving of charity, who is full of them and will grind them out at a quarter apiece, making a young man's present cost him in the neighborhood of sixty cents, but then the original idea will make the girl he favors think all the more favorably of him. There is an old Swedish tradition handed down for the benefit of children very much as Santa Claus is held up at Christmas time, namely: That about Easter the rabbits begin to lay colored Easter eggs. Although why the rabbit should have been selected for the job instead of cows or pigs is somewhat incomprehensible.

DEVOTIONS AND DRESSERS.
Easter Sunday is a day devoted to prayer and criticism—the solemnity of the event it celebrates invokes the former, while the revelation of new clothes, hats, bonnets and airs provokes the latter.

It is a difficult matter to say your prayers conscientiously when "that horrid girl Emma" is seated in the pew right in front of you in a much more expensive hat than your own; or to feel in perfect harmony with the second greatest commandment, "Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself," when you hear Mrs. Talkback making unpleasant remarks about your new gown; but after all it is human nature, and you can console yourself with the thought that someone else is saying quite as many unkind things about them.

To those who have observed Lent religiously Easter Sunday, with its bright flowers, cheerful music and stirring service comes like a well-merited reward after a long season of fasting and self-inflicted penance.

Society greets the dawn of Easter with open arms and puts on its best bib and tucker in token of the appreciation with which it welcomes its release from all clerical restraint. Men who have not been to church in months turn up in their finery, in whichever church their creed or best girl shall dictate, and even if they content themselves with saying ditto every other Sunday in the year until a new pair of Easter trousers bring them out again, some good seed may fall in the stony ground and perhaps bring forth good fruit.

The prevailing fashion in Easter hats this spring seems to be a black lace frame with a young flower garden planted on it and it would not cut out trim and dainty of the new hats be left out over night "when the birds begin to build their nests," if they were to select the hat as a good site for building purposes.

The director's list of costs is very effective and the long-handled parasols are remarkable for the unique designs which serve as handles.

OPERA COSTUMES.
The dresses for "Ermine," the production of which is now drawing near at hand, is very pretty, and the ladies who represent the committee on costumes find it a difficult matter to satisfy the desire for knowledge with regard to appropriate colors, etc. The gentlemen have an efficient guide in Mr. Metten, who not only can design, but also cut out, trim and finish anything from a director's overcoat to a Charlotte russe.

The question is being agitated by the committee in charge as to what price should be charged for admission to the performance of "Ermine," and the result so far is an inclination to split the difference, and make the charge downstairs \$1.50 and upstairs the same as usual, 50c. The cost of the production of the opera, and the liberal way in which the Encore club proposes to stage it, warrants an advance in the price of seats. Amateur performances in New York would invariably test the seating capacity of the auditorium at \$3 per ticket and this merely for a dramatic performance, in which, however clever and popular the performers may be, must suffer in comparison with an average rendition of the same play acted by professionals. In amateur opera, however, there is one redeeming feature, viz.: that however poor the acting may be, a club like the Encore can, from a musical standpoint, cope with the very best concert opera companies. Therefore the lover of music can, if he chooses to do so, shut his eyes and orally inhale one hundred and fifty cents worth, the price of admission. Musically, therefore, with such trained voices as Mrs. Hersey, Mrs. Harrison, Miss Wilcox, and Messrs. Thornburgh, Metten, Gibbs and Wallace possess, to say nothing of an excellently drilled chorus, the audience can feel assured that the beautiful music of "Ermine" will lose nothing of its charm in this production, while from a dramatic point of view from what I have seen of Messrs. Thornburgh, Wallace and Metten and Misses Hersey, Harrison, Sadler and Wilcox, their most enthusiastic admirers may be agreeably surprised. Mr. Hill as stage manager complains that some of the principals are not zealous enough in attending rehearsals, and they on their part complain that business interferes with their being present. Doubtless there may be truth in this; but why, then, did they accept the parts in the first place? The absence of one of even the minor speaking parts throws the whole rehearsal out of shape, and is a poor compliment to those others who always make a point of being present.

THE GERMAN.
The favors for the forthcoming german are being sent on from Chicago and outside of some very handsome hand-painted cups and saucers, etc., will consist of unique designs in cardboard covered with silver paper, among them being figures of boys on velocipedes, jockeys on horseback, etc. Miss Chumason has also presented the assembly with enough for two sets. I hear George Hill will probably be chosen to lead, and the choice is undoubtedly a good one.

Mr. Hill is a favorite and can always be relied on. Like Charles I., it may be said of Mr. Hill that he never said a foolish thing, but unlike Charles he has done several wise ones, notably a purchase of some real estate which has since been sold to good advantage.

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THE TENNIS PLAYERS.
Robert N. Hill has been elected to fill the vacancy as executive officer in the tennis club caused by the departure of Eugene Braden. Mr. Hill is to devote his energies to the east side ground, and it is to be hoped he will exert himself in the matter as soon as the "Ermine" rehearsals are over and not permit the grass to grow under his feet.

JOTTINGS.
The new governor has already evinced a liking for the theatre. He attended a performance last night. P. B. Ward appeared, and took in "A Night Off" last week.

It is evident Helena likes comedy better than tragedy. There is more money in "a night off" than even "Billy explain yourself," or "Kismet" three times.

Our genial postmaster understands the true spirit of bohemianism and finds congenial companions on both sides of the footlights.

The prevailing ultra fashionable spring styles gives the dear girls a very verdant look.

The young ladies are, I understand, greatly exercised over the current rumor that George Hill had decided to leave the city and go to the east with a young lady from Butte. This, however, is not the case. The probabilities are that Mr. Hill will follow out the suggestion made in the Independent two weeks ago and lead a quiet life in the hands of a young lady from Butte. This, however, is not the case. The probabilities are that Mr. Hill will follow out the suggestion made in the Independent two weeks ago and lead a quiet life in the hands of a young lady from Butte.

It is astonishing how many widows and orphans are interested in Helena dust; and the end is not yet, but when it comes—stand firm.

E. F. Crosby and wife arrived home from the east last Sunday night. Mrs. Crosby is looking remarkably well, and Mr. Crosby is looking after some real estate, with a view to purchase. They propose building a Queen Anne cottage on Broadway, the plans for which are in the hands of a Spruille Braden, who was thrown from his horse at the Springs on Friday last, was not seriously hurt as was first supposed. The walk into town seemed to have affected him worse than anything else.

Mr. and Mrs. T. C. Power left for the east Monday. Their son Charles accompanied them. In the young gentleman's case it is not a question of "the girl," but "the girls I left behind me."

Mr. Rosenbaum's death will call forth the sympathy of the entire community, by whom he was generally liked and respected.

Herbert Nicholson returned from across the pond last night. He is sunburnt and speaks enthusiastically of his trip. There were several gentlemen and one or two of the fair sex at the depot to welcome the revelation back. He plays the old Nick with the girls, anyhow.

Dr. Musser paid Helena a flying visit to collect his photographs, bric-a-brac and other treasures, and having left his P. O. box now left us for his Red Lodge, where he expects, however, to make money P. D. Q.

Bachelors' hall will shortly be started on the east side of town, just off Broadway. Messrs. Nicholson and Joseph Head have rented a four-room cottage on the brow of the hill, where they can watch the sun rise and the moon set in undisturbed tranquility.

Mrs. Dr. Hersey arrived in Helena on Thursday and rehearsed her part in "Ermine" on Saturday night. Mr. Hersey thoroughly appreciates the spirit of the part, and the music allotted her could not be in better hands.

Mr. Thornburgh will introduce the spirited romance "Claude Duval" in "Ermine." This song is by Mollay and perhaps one of the most effective this taking song-writer has ever produced.

Gov. Leslie has been spending a few days at Great Falls, and seems to have faith in the little city on the banks of the mighty Missouri.

Mr. and Mrs. O. C. Dallas are now at home to their friends at No. 523 North Exchange street.

The Literary club will renew their regular monthly meetings Tuesday evening next at the residence of Mrs. Smodes. Original papers will be read. Poetry, too, will be read, and vocal and instrumental music, will also help to enlighten and enlarge the understanding. Several new members have lately been added to the society and some many clever people belong to it.

There is some talk of an archery club being formed this summer, and it has been suggested that an amalgamation of the tennis, cricket and proposed archery clubs would be a good move, for then, with an increased bank account, good grounds might be bought, club houses erected, and a permanent organization by this means assured where athletic sports and social gatherings could be held within the same fold.

NOTES AND QUERIES.
[Correspondents desirous of having questions answered through the medium of this column will please write their inquiries on one side of a sheet of paper and sign their names not for publication but as a token of good faith.]

"Sincerity" writes: Can you tell me if it is considered the correct thing now to wear bonnets at a ladies' lunch party? In New York and Philadelphia bonnets are being worn at all such entertainments.

"Propriety" writes: "Is there any harm in a young man who is well acquainted with a gentleman and his wife sending the lady flowers and candy and occasionally writing to her when an opportunity occurs? A gentleman of this kind is a very intimate friend with a married couple may send lady flowers or candy. With regard to writing to her, there are some husbands who draw the line at this, and this is one of the exceptions which go to prove the rule—that the pen is mightier than the sword."

"In Doubt" writes: "In addressing a married lady should a gentleman say madam or ma'am?" A gentleman would say neither. There is no reason for any one to say "no, ma'am" or "yes, madam." "I think not," or "I quite agree with you" is much better than yes or no. BEESWING.

Gone to the Wall.
NEW YORK, April 29.—The office of the Callender Insulating and Water Proofing company, the failure of which was announced this morning, is closed and the place is in the hands of the sheriff. The officials deny their suspension was due to the departure of William Callender, the president and treasurer, for Europe, nor do they admit he is a defaulter. Creditors think the amount of liabilities will run up to more than \$400,000. They do not expect any satisfactory arrangement will be made.

Five Were Drowned.
BURLINGTON, Ia., April 30.—The steam raft boat Everett on the Mississippi river was struck by a furious gale of wind near Ottumwa late to-night and sunk. Of sixteen persons on board five were drowned, namely: Capt. Vincent Peel, Mrs. Harry Bell and her three old child, George Howard (a cook), and a nurse girl, name unknown. The other people were rescued with considerable difficulty and were thoroughly exhausted from exposure. Captain Peel leaves a large family.

J. A. Evans, recently appointed minister to Denmark, is ill from hemorrhage of the lungs.

SOL SMITH RUSSELL.

The Story of "A Poor Relation"—The Quaint Comedian's Wealth.

Sol Smith Russell, the famous comedian, who appears at Ming's Opera house tomorrow night and on Tuesday evening and at the Wednesday matinee, is one of the wealthy citizens of Minneapolis, where he is quoted at upwards of a quarter of a million. Russell has made a tremendous hit this year in "A Poor Relation," which he will present Monday evening and at a special matinee next Wednesday. Tuesday evening this quaint and funny genius will appear in his favorite farce comedy "Bewitched," of No. 1044 Vale, in "A Poor Relation," the San Francisco Post says.

"It is a character that appeals to the hearts of every one, and never did divine in pulpit preach so grand a sermon on charity as does poor Noah Vale when he wraps his little wife in his overcoat and goes out in the cold and rain, clad only in an alpaca coat, straw hat, thin trousers and cracked boots, to earn a few cents to buy them bread. We don't see much of such poverty as Noah Vale's surroundings show out here in California, and the want of bread is almost unknown in this land of lavish lunches and universal benevolence, but it does no harm to have the better feelings quickened once in a while. The plot of the play is not novel, the action sometimes is absurd. Noah Vale, the inventor, has a rich relative in the factory line of life, and to him he goes to sell his invention. He is hungry, and the rich factory man's daughter goes off to get him something to eat. He faints, and the rich man's partner robs him of the plans of the new invention. This is seen by the daughter's step-mother, who hates the girl and when Noah recovers and finds his plans lost, the step-mother accuses the girl of stealing them, and to save her, Noah says that he never had any plans, and quietly goes off to his garret to starve. The wicked partner wants to marry the good girl, but is confronted with the wicked one begins life in Montreal with a frayed yellow valise, one pair of socks, one collar, one pair of cuffs and a polka dot shirt not quite so good as new. Vale gets his invention back and marries pretty Dolly the rich man's daughter."

Small's said to be a Traitor.
WASHINGTON, April 29.—Charges have been filed with the president against Representative Small, of South Carolina, which, if proved true, are likely to prevent his appointment as collector of customs at New York. One of the charges made against him is that he bolted the party ticket at the last presidential election and has committed acts of treachery to the party which make him unfit for the least recognition at the hands of the present administration.

Blew His Brains Out.
NEW YORK, April 29.—Bernard Kohn blew his brains out early this morning in front of St. Boniface Catholic church with a revolver which he picked up on the battlefield of Antietam.

Winter Excursions to California.
On the 15th day of every month the Northern Pacific Railroad company will sell excursion tickets to San Francisco and return at \$75; to Los Angeles and return, \$94. These tickets have an extreme limit of six months from date of issuance, and can be used either by steam or by rail, via the famous Mount Shasta route.

Bear in mind that the Northern Pacific is the only line running through sleeping and dining cars to the Pacific coast.

A. D. EDGAR, General Agent.

Buckley's Arnica Salve.

The best salve in the world for cuts, bruises, sores, ulcers, salt rheum, fever sores, tetter, chapped hands, chilblains, corns and all skin eruptions, and positively cures piles, or no pay required. It is guaranteed to give perfect satisfaction, or money refunded. Price 25 cents per box. For sale by R. S. Hale & Co.

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D. W. MIDDLEMAS

Is now prepared to supply the purest ice now in the market.

Leave orders at Lindsey & Co.'s, Edwards St.

Montana Coal Company.

A meeting of the stockholders of the Montana Coal company will be held at the law office of McCone, Carter & Clayburn at 11 a. m. Saturday, April 27th, 1899. A meeting of the directors of said company will be held at the same office at 7:30 p. m., April 27th, 1899. All stockholders and directors are earnestly requested to be present. By order of the president, H. SOMMERICK, Secy.

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Pioneer National Bank
OF MONTANA.

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A. J. DAVIS, Vice-President
K. W. KNIGHT, Cashier
T. H. KLEINSCHMIDT, Asst. Cashier
GEO. H. HILL, Second Asst. Cashier

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A. M. Holter, R. S. Hamilton,
Granville Stuart, C. P. Higgins,
K. W. Knight, A. J. Davis,
T. H. Kleinschmidt, Henry M. Pachen,
T. C. Power.

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transacted. 5% interest paid on time deposits.

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A. J. DAVIDSON, Vice-Pres't.
AARON HERSHFIELD, Cash'r

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THOMAS CRUSE, M. HANDS,
S. S. HUNTLEY, W. D. NICHOLAS,
A. J. DAVIDSON, MORRIS MORRIS,
L. H. HERSHFIELD, A. HERSHFIELD,
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Purchase Gold and Silver Bul-
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HELENA, MONTANA.

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SURPLUS - - - \$50,000

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C. A. BROADWATER, President
L. G. PHELPS, Vice-President
S. E. ATKINSON, Asst. Cashier
A. G. CLARKE, HERMAN GANS,
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S. C. ASHBY, D. A. CORY.

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Public Works.

SEWER ON RODNEY STREET.

Sealed proposals will be received at the office of the undersigned, room 9, Hotel block, until Tuesday, April 30, 1899, at 12 o'clock noon, for constructing a sewer on Rodney street, from Idaho avenue to Rodney street, and on Rodney street from Helena avenue to south end of street, in the city of Helena, Montana, according to plans and specifications on file in the office of Superintendent of Sewers, room 6, Birkenfeld block.

A bond with two sufficient sureties in a sum of at least twenty (20) per cent. of the gross amount must accompany each proposal.

The city reserves the right to reject any and all bids.

By order of the City Council.
ALEX. C. BOTTIN, City Clerk.
Dated Helena, Mont., April 18, 1899.

Public Works.

LYNDALE AVENUE SEWERS.

Sealed proposals will be received at the office of the undersigned, room 9, Hotel block, until Tuesday, April 30, 1899, at 12 o'clock noon, for constructing a sewer on Lyndale avenue in the city of Helena, Montana, according to plans and specifications on file in the office of Superintendent of Sewers, room 6, Birkenfeld block.

A bond with two sufficient sureties in a sum of at least twenty (20) per cent. of the gross amount must accompany each proposal.

The city reserves the right to reject any and all bids.

By order of the City Council.
ALEX. C. BOTTIN, City Clerk.
Dated Helena, Mont., April 18, 1899.

Partnership Notice.

Leon A. LaCroix has been admitted to a partnership in my real estate and insurance business, and the firm will hereafter be L. F. LaCroix & Son.

Children Cry for Pitcher's Castoria.

H. BARNETT,

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HIGHEST CASH PRICES PAID.

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NINETEEN ROOMS FOR PATIENTS.
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All Blood Diseases successfully treated. Syphilis Polym
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250 Miles The Shortest
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AND ALL POINTS EAST.

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Low Rates, Quick Time,
Pullman Palace Cars

NORTHERN PACIFIC TIME TABLE.

The following is the time of the arrivals
and departures of trains on the Northern Pacific on
the new schedule, taking effect Sunday, March 31, 1899.

ARRIVALS AT HELENA

No. 1—Through West-bound express... 7:50 p. m.
No. 2—Through East-bound express... 7:10 p. m.
No. 3—Butte, Helena and Hel. Exp... 8:00 a. m.
No. 10—Marquette Passenger... 1